

Practitioner's Docket No.: 782_192

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Tsuneaki OHASHI

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: CORROSION-RESISTIVE MEMBERS

Handwritten signature and date: 5/30/02

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 3 and 6-9 as follows:

3. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 1, wherein one or more metal elements selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table are contained in a total amount of 1 to 15 mol% in said silicon nitride sintered body as calculated externally in the form of the metal element(s) relative to said silicon nitride.

6. (Amended) The corrosion-resistive member set forth in claim 3, wherein at least one of said one or more metal elements selected from Group 2a and Group 3a in the Periodic Table is in the form of an oxide.